

Core Values of the NALC

Christ Centered

We confess the apostolic faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures. We affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm, “according to which all doctrines should and must be judged” (*Formula of Concord*). We accept the ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses to the Word of God.

Mission Driven

We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ. We believe that making disciples—in our congregations, in our communities and nations, and around the world—must be a priority of the Church in the present age.

Traditionally Grounded

We affirm the ecumenical creeds and the faithful witness of the Church across time and space. We endorse the form and practices of the universal Church that are consistent with Scripture, particularly the office of the ministry and the tradition of worship under Word and Sacrament. We seek dialogue and fellowship with other Lutheran churches and with faithful Christians of other confessions.

Congregationally Focused

We strive to be a church that is organized to facilitate the ministries of local congregations in a posture of servanthood and a spirit of partnership, through the provision of resources, connections and information.

How does the NALC handle the adoption of teaching statements?

Members and congregations of the NALC have direct involvement in the decisions and life of the NALC. All teaching statements and major decisions must be endorsed by the bishop, approved by a two-thirds majority vote at a Convocation comprised of representatives from each NALC congregation, and ratified by two-thirds of NALC congregations.

How can we join the NALC?

To join the NALC, a congregation must subscribe to the NALC constitution. A congregation votes according to procedures specified in its own constitution and bylaws.

How can I learn more?

Information about the NALC is available online at thenalc.org. You may also contact our office for more information.

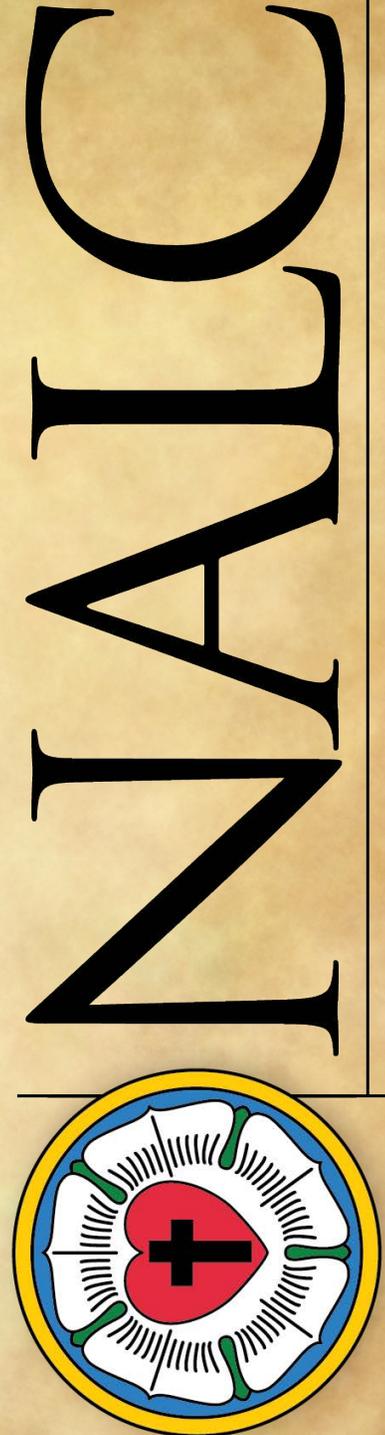


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North American Lutheran Church

Consider the North American Lutheran Church

We invite you to consider the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). The NALC is a young Lutheran church for confessing Lutherans looking for a church that is faithful in its preaching and practice to the Holy Bible and to the teachings of the Lutheran Confessions. Nearly 500 congregations—from Puerto Rico to Canada and all across the U.S.—have already joined the NALC. We hope that you too will see the NALC as a church that will enable your congregation to carry out its mission and ministry faithfully.

The NALC embodies the theological center of Lutheranism in North America. It is a church committed to the authority of the Bible as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life. In keeping with the Lutheran Confessions, we believe all doctrines should and must be judged by the teaching of Scripture.

The NALC is committed to shaping its life around four core values: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, and Congregationally Focused.

Many congregations joining the NALC are leaving churches that have moved away from traditional Biblical teaching. But the NALC is much more than a reaction to the errors of other church bodies. The NALC is a renewed Lutheran community moving forward in faith and mission, focused on living out Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples.

Does the NALC have a seminary?

Yes. The North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) Center is located at Trinity School of Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. The NALS also has various undergraduate and graduate partnerships with Concordia College (New York), Concordia University (Edmonton), Concordia University (St. Paul), and Grand View University. You can learn more about the seminary at thenals.org.

How does the NALC relate to LCMC?

Congregations and pastors can be members of both LCMC and the NALC, and many are dual affiliated. The Augustana District of LCMC has a NALC liaison and relates to the NALC for the sake of common confession of the Christian faith and cooperative work in mission.

Does the NALC work in partnership with Lutherans around the world?

Yes. The NALC is committed to working in partnership with faithful Lutherans in other parts of the world. The NALC has a Full Communion relationship with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, and an interim agreement with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, two of the largest Lutheran churches in the world. Leaders of the NALC and Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod meet regularly and are exploring areas of cooperation, including disaster relief work. The NALC also partners regularly with the Anglican Church in North America.

Will the NALC help us find a new pastor when our pastor leaves?

Yes. The NALC has a staff member whose role includes helping congregations call a

pastor. The decision who to call as a pastor always remains with the local congregation.

Does the NALC have a bishop?

Yes. The role of bishop in the NALC is pastoral and theological rather than administrative. The bishop conducts a ministry of visitation throughout the NALC and promotes the mission of the church. A dean, who also serves as pastor of a local congregation, works with the bishop to provide oversight and pastoral care to pastors and congregations in each geographical Mission District. The General Secretary handles administrative and operational functions for the NALC.

Will the NALC have a large structure and a large national headquarters?

No. The NALC is committed to a very lean structure but with enough organization to help congregations in their ministries. The NALC's focus is on assisting the ministry of congregations, not on congregations assisting the ministry of the continental church.

How does NALC handle benevolence giving from congregations?

Congregations decide which ministries to support with their benevolence giving. NALC congregations are encouraged to support ministries and mission congregations directly. NALC congregations are also encouraged to support the work of the church, but ongoing administrative costs will remain limited because of the NALC's commitment to a lean structure.